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amendment. For instance, support for the amendment and new claims appears in the original claims of the application.

Applicants disagree regarding the effective filing date of the application as stated in the Office Action. Correction will be pursued by petition.

Claims 1-11, 13-14 and 17-24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102 over Kim (U.S. Patent 5,389,494).

Claims 1-10 and 17-23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102 over Laridon (U.S. Patent 3,721,566).

Claims 1-3, 5-6, 8-9, 11, 13, 17, 22 and 24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102 over Kawabe et al. (U.S. Patent 5,707,776).

Claims 1-6, 8-9, 11, 13, 17-19 and 22-24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102 over Wanat et al. (WO 00/33137).

Claims 1-3, 5-6, 8-9, 11, 13-14, 17, 19 and 22-24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102 over Sato et al. (U.S. Patent 5,700,625).

Claims 1-6, 8-10, 17-19, 21 and 23-27 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102 over Kajita et al. (EP 0930541A1).

Claims 1-3, 5-6, 8-11, 13, 17 and 21-24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102 over Wanat et al. (WO 98/27462).

Claims 1-3, 5-6, 8-11, 13, 17, 19 and 21-24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102 over Rahman et al. (WO 98/27129).

Claims 1-6, 8-11, 13-14, 16-19 and 21-24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) over Takeda et al. (US 2001/0036593).

Claims 1-3, 8-10, 17 and 21-24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102 over Nakano et al. (U.S. Patent 5,738,975).

Claims 1-11, 13-14 and 17-24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 over Ito et al. (U.S. Patent 4,491,628).

Claims 1-11, 13-14 and 17-24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102 over Crivello et al. (U.S. Patent 4,603,101).

Claims 1-6, 8-9, 11, 13, 17-19 and 22-24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102 over Suzuki et al. (U.S. 2000/0012865).

Claims 1 and 15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 over Thackeray (U.S. Patent 5,514,520) in view of Rahman et al. (WO 98/27129).

Claims 1 and 12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 over Thackeray et al. (U.S. Patent 5,514,520) in view of Rahman et al. (WO 98/27129) and Aviram (U.S. Patent 6,346,363).

For the sake of brevity, the several rejections under Sections 102 and 103 are addressed in combination. Each of the rejections is traversed.

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Claim 1 has been amended to include features of claim 16. The only rejection of claim 16 was based on the Takeda document.

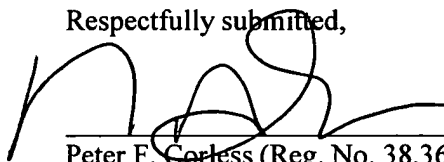
Among other things, the Takeda document does not have a sufficiently early date to be prior art with respect to the present application. The document can be antedated as presently applied by correction of the priority date of the application or Rule 131 declaration.

The Takeda document also does not teach or suggest features of the pending claims.

For instance, claims 29-44 recite "washing" of the resin, which corresponds to original claim 10, which was not rejected over the Takeda document.

It is believed the application is in condition for immediate allowance, which action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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VERSION SHOWING MARKED CHANGES

IN THE CLAIMS

1. A method for preparation of a photoresist composition comprising:
 - (a) treating a prepared resin with one or more organic solvents, the resin comprising phenolic and alkyl acrylate photoacid labile groups;
 - (b) admixing the treated resin with a photoactive component to provide a photoresist composition

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